

## **Asunder**

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2016 commemorative project for the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, with a particular focus on the North East

Primarily funded by:  
**14-18 NOW** WW1 Centenary Art Commissions across the UK and  
 Sunderland Cultural Partnership



## PROJECT AIMS

- to uncover untold stories of WW1 with a focus on Sunderland and the North East of England
- to experiment with mixing archive with contemporary footage shot especially for the film
- to create a narrative that weaves oral history testimonies, diary entries and memoirs from those that lived through WW1 with newspaper stories published in 1914-18 editions of the *Sunderland Daily Echo* and *Shipping Gazette*
- to collaborate with musicians from the North East to create an original soundtrack to be performed live at the premiere





# PERFORMANCES WITH LIVE MUSIC

**Asunder sheet music**



**Conductor Hugh Brunt**



**Asunder premiere programme**



**Rehearsals and recording at Sage Gateshead**




**Asunder team with Royal Northern Sinfonia**



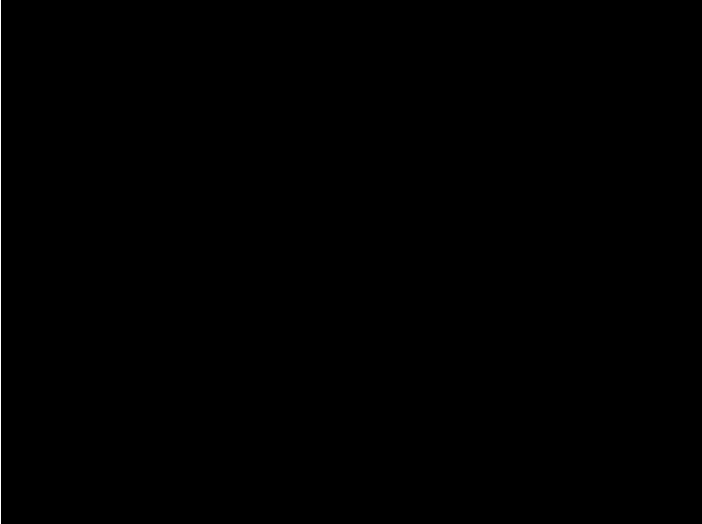
**Performances with Live Music**

**PREMIERE – 10.07.16**  
**Sunderland Empire Theatre**  
 Premiere included additional  
*Asunder* inspired arts activities

**Barbican London**  
 12.02.17



**Asunder**  
 Sun 12 Feb, Milton Court  
 Field Music and Warm  
 Digits provide the live  
 soundtrack to Esther Johnson's  
 moving documentary about  
 Sunderland during WW1



# ARCHIVE RESEARCH



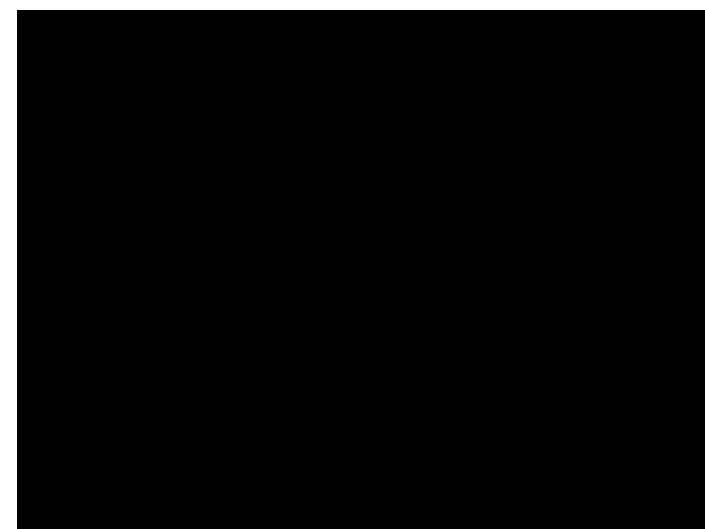
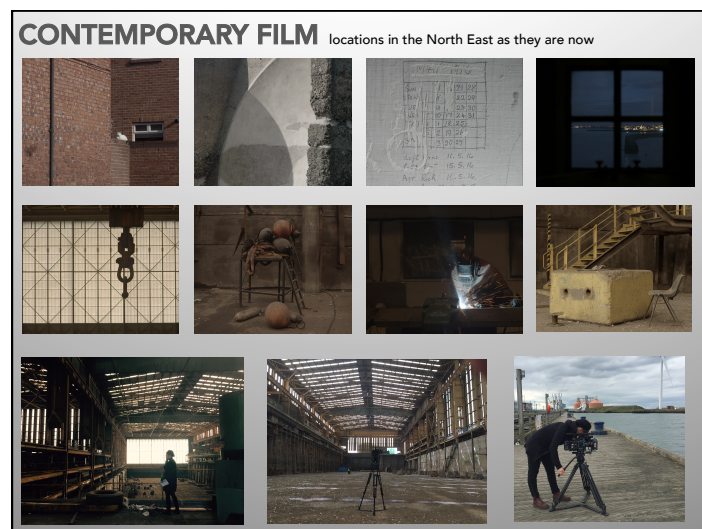
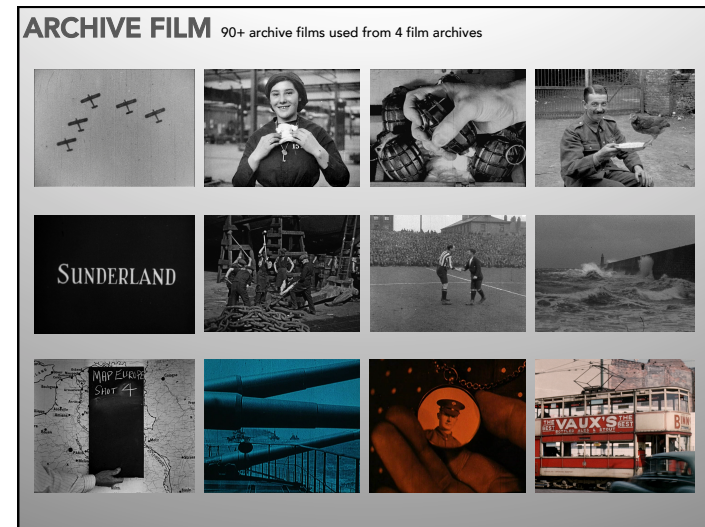














## COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

Screenings taking place in locations in which the film characters once lived and knew:

e.g. Sunderland; Roker; Hendon; Blyth;  
South Tyneside; Gateshead; Durham

## CINEMA SCREENINGS

- Special screenings for schools
- Screenings with Q&As

Filmhouse Edinburgh 10.09.17

**Sheffield Doc/Fest** Date tbc

QUAD Derby 21.06.17

Tyneside Cinema Newcastle 21.05.17

Regent Street Cinema London 18.04.17

HOME Manchester 22.02.17

<http://asunder1916.uk/events>

2018 – Future performances include Sage Gatehead,  
plus TV Broadcast and DVD release



A film by ESTHER JOHNSON  
screened by FRED MURPHY and WARREN DIGGINS  
with ROYAL NORTHERN SINFONIA  
and THE GOSWOLD SISTERS

Community screenings 2017

Bank Of The Way 16 January

King's Hall 16 January

Whitton Parish Church 16 March

Stonewall Theatre 16 April

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## PREMIERE AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"In the plethora of events marking the centenary of the First World War and especially the Somme, *Asunder* really stood out for me: its highly imaginative concept, brilliant storytelling, geographical and cultural specificity, above all its power to move and connect with the reality of events 100 years ago. A fantastic piece of work." – Michael Chaplin, Writer

"The film was meticulously researched and put together to evoke so many emotions, what a tribute... I think the resounding set of applause at the end of the show said it all!" – Vicky Willis, Sir James Knott Trust

"*Asunder* was phenomenal!"  
– Brenda Graham, Sunderland Heritage Forum

"I thought it was amazing and loved every minute. The stories were so lovely and left you wanting to find out more – faultless."  
– Louise Clamp, Sunderland Vibrancy Group

"The show was incredibly moving and powerful, I was very emotional at points."  
– Lynne Patience, Sunderland resident

## REVIEWS

"a fascinating kaleidoscope"

★★★★★ *Chronicle*

"very special indeed"

*Living North*

"*Asunder* casts its spell"

*Sunderland Echo*

## AWARDS

Nominated for Focal International 2017

*Best Use of Footage in a Factual Production*

Nominated for Journal Culture 2017

*Best Event of the Year*

Shortlisted for Living North 2016

*Performance of the Year*

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